New power project proposals pending with the Government

877. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of proposals for setting up of power projects in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, how many proposals are pending with the Government, with the names of the companies and capacity of proposed power plants; and

(c) whether Government propose to encourage the setting up of gas-based power plants in India in future, and if so, steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OR POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, there is no requirement of license for thermal generation. However, any generating company intending to set up a hydro generating station shall prepare and submit to the Authority for its concurrence, a scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding such sum, as may be fixed by the Central Government from time to time, by Notification.

Planning Commission has delegated full powers to State Governments for approval of power projects without any ceiling. Clearance from Planning Commission is to be restricted only to those hydro-electric projects where inter-State issues are involved.

At present, no hydro power project pertaining to State Sector is pending with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for according Techno-Economic Clearance.

(c) With thermal generation not requiring any license or clearance from the CEA under the Electricity Act, 2003 it is for project developers to make their own choices regarding use of gas as a fuel for power generation.

Utilisation of funds in World Bank aided power projects

878. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of World Bank had visited India to hold discussion with the officials of the Department of Energy and Power Corporation of India with regards to reforms in Energy sector and utilization of funds in World Bank aided power projects;